

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-29 stand allowed, as stated in the Notice of Allowance mailed June 9, 2004. Claims 19, 20 and 27 have been cancelled by way of this amendment. The issue fee is being paid concurrently (on September 9, 2004). Entry of the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312 is respectfully requested, without withdrawing this application from allowance.

By way of this amendment, claims 19, 20, and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Applicants reserve the right to file these claims in a continuation application prior to issuance of the instant application. Claims 19, 20 and 27 have been cancelled because of a possible interference with U.S. Patent No. 6,136,580, of record.

No new matter has been added by way of this Amendment. This Amendment does not change the scope of the remaining claims, does not require a new search and does not introduce new matter.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered. The issue fee is being paid concurrently (on September 9, 2004). Accordingly, this Amendment is being timely filed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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